

Dental Hygienist Scope of Practice To Include Administration of Local Anesthesia

Public Act No. 423 was approved by the Governor on June 5, 2002. It provides for the delegation to a dental hygienist, by a dentist and under the direct supervision of a dentist, the ability to administer intraoral block and infiltration anesthesia to a patient who is 18 years of age or older. In order to administer local anesthesia, the hygienist must have completed a training program, passed a state or regional board administered written exam, and possess current certification in basic or advanced cardiac life support. The steps for certification in local anesthesia administration are listed below.

1. Training programs

Current Michigan licensed dental hygienists will have to complete a Department of Consumer & Industry Services approved training program for local anesthesia. The list of approved continuing education programs follows.

Approved Dental Hygiene Local Anesthesia CE Programs

2002DHILA01	University of Michigan – School of Dentistry
2002DHILA02	University of Detroit-Mercy – School of Dentistry
2002DHILA03	Ferris State University – College of Allied Health Sciences
2002DHILA04	Grand Rapids Community College (Dental Auxiliary Programs)
2002DHILA05	Wayne County Community College District – Northwest Campus (Dental Auxiliary Programs)
2002DHILA06	Delta College
2003DHILA07	Lansing Community College Dental Hygiene Program
2003DHILA08	Mott Community College

Recent graduates of ADA/CODA approved programs

Recent graduates of ADA/CODA approved dental hygiene programs may already have the training necessary to do the procedures without taking additional training. Check with the dental hygiene program to see if the program included the necessary training.

Current licensees who wish to administer local anesthesia

All licensees have the opportunity to complete an approved continuing education program and take the NERB exam if s/he wishes to be eligible to administer local anesthesia.

Graduates of out-of-state programs

If the dental hygienist trained out of state, s/he will have to review the course requirements listed in the law and compare them to the training received. The hygienist can submit the course syllabi to the Department for review. A letter indicating if the coursework was substantially equivalent will be sent to the hygienist. Send the information to:

Dept of Consumer & Industry Services
Bureau of Health Services
P.O. Box 30670
Lansing, MI 48909

ATTN: Continuing Education

2. NERB Local Anesthesia Examination

Upon completion of training, individuals will need to successfully complete the local anesthesia examination offered by the North East Regional Boards (NERB). Information about the test can be found at www.nerb.org. Applications can be obtained by calling the NERB offices at 301-563-3300 or fax a request for an application to NERB at 301-563-3307.

3. Maintenance of current certification in basic or advanced cardiac life support

In order to continue to administer local anesthesia, dental hygienists must maintain certification in basic or advanced cardiac life support. (This is also a requirement for renewal of the dental hygiene license.)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I have completed all the steps to certification, what do I do now?

The legislation establishes the three steps to be completed before the dental hygienist can administer local anesthesia. Unfortunately, the Department, at this time, is not authorized to issue a certificate.

You can take proof of your training, passage of the NERB test and your current certification in cardiac life support to your employing dentist. (You must also have a current dental hygienist license.) Upon review and acceptance of these documents, the dentist can delegate the administration of local anesthesia to you.

2. Is there any requirement for renewal of this training?

The legislation only discusses maintenance of current cardiac life support certification. It would be assumed that you would maintain your skills in local anesthesia administration as part of your continuing education requirement but there are no specific mandates for upgrading your skills.

3. Does my employing dentist have to keep the documentation of my local anesthesia training?

There are no current requirements but it would be in the dentist's best interest to maintain a copy of the proof of training, the NERB results and your current CPR certification. The dentist is delegating this activity to you, and along with you, shares responsibility for any problems that arise.

4. Will the state ever issue a certificate for local anesthesia administration?

There are on-going discussions about the state or a state designated representative issuing a certificate once that could be used as proof that the dental hygienist has met the local anesthesia administration requirements. No decision has been made and there is no anticipated timeframe in which this decision will be made. If a decision is made to issue a certificate, all dental hygienists will be notified.

If a certificate is issued, it would be issued once and remain active with no renewal necessary as long as your dental hygienist license remains current. It would become part of the permanent license record.